

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF BAKERS- FIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Bakersfield Presbyterian Church is celebrating its 175th anniversary; and

Whereas, the congregation of Bakersfield Presbyterian continue to be active, enthusiastic members of our community; and

Whereas, Bakersfield Presbyterian received a congratulatory plaque from the Presbyterian Church General Assembly for their 175 years; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend Bakersfield Presbyterian Church and its congregation for their unwavering commitment, dedication and contributions to their community and country in recognition of their 175 years.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANTS STE- PHEN AND JEFFERY BROWN, SCOTTSDALE HEALTHCARE'S "SALUTE TO MILITARY" HON- OREE

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Sergeants Stephen and Jeffery Brown, Scottsdale Healthcare's "Salute to Military" Honorees for July 2008. Scottsdale Healthcare has recognized Sergeants Stephen and Jeffery Brown and other physicians with a connection to the Armed Services for their diligent service to this country.

I commend Scottsdale Healthcare for paying tribute to such deserving servicemembers. Sergeants Stephen and Jeffery Brown are brothers and the third generation of men in their family to proudly serve in the military.

Sergeant Stephen Brown is currently on active duty and assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division from Fort Steward, Georgia. He returned home in mid-July from a second tour of duty in Iraq, to which he deployed in April 2007. Sergeant Stephen Brown is a Satellite Communications Technician and Computer Network Operator. Some of his awards include two Army Commendation Medals.

Sergeant Jeffery Brown is also currently on active duty. He supports the 82nd Airborne Division from Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Sergeant Jeffery Brown is currently deployed to Iraq on his first tour of duty. He is expected to return in January 2009. He is a Licensed Practical Nurse and Medic now serving in a Combat Support Hospital in Iraq. Some of his awards include the Army Achievement and Army Service medals.

The brothers' continued sacrifice extended well into their personal lives—despite working in the same Area of Operations, they saw each other only sporadically. One reunion took place over Thanksgiving, when the men were able to enjoy dinner together until their base fell under a rocket and mortar attack. Thankfully, no one was injured.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Sergeants Stephen and Jeffery Brown's tireless dedication to serving our country and protecting the lives of other servicemen facing combat.

MEDICARE IMPROVEMENT FOR PA- TIENTS AND PROVIDERS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, today, the House voted to override the President's veto of H.R. 6331, the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act. Although I had previously opposed this legislation, I reluctantly cast my vote in favor of overriding the veto. While I maintain my concerns over the funding cuts to Medicare Advantage plans contained in the bill, H.R. 6331 corrects the scheduled physician payment cuts and we have simply run out of time to negotiate further on this matter.

Ensuring access to health care is critical for all Americans. It is especially important that senior citizens, who are at a particularly vulnerable time, receive high quality, affordable care. Consequently, in 2003, Congress created Medicare Advantage plans which combine the reliable nature of Medicare with the quality and value of a competitively driven market. With nearly 10 million Medicare beneficiaries currently enrolled in Medicare Advantage plans, up nearly 60 percent since 2004, America's seniors are seeing the benefits of these plans, offering greater choice, lower out-of-pocket costs, and expanded service.

Unfortunately, the bill placed before us today actually falls short of a compromise that would have staved off the devastating reimbursement cuts and preserved valuable access to Medicare Advantage plans. Seeing how near Senate Finance Committee leaders were to reaching an optimal compromise, I originally opposed H.R. 6331. However, it is clear now that this bill represents the only vehicle to combat the painful cuts to physician payments and to maintain seniors' access to Medicare providers, and therefore it must be supported.

Madam Speaker, America's physicians have called on Congress to prevent a devastating cut to their Medicare reimbursement payments. This cut could have dangerous implications for America's seniors, risking access to the health coverage on which they rely. While

H.R. 6331 does not represent the full extent of what I feel could have been done to address the health care needs for our senior citizens, it does defeat the most imminent threat. I remain hopeful that Congress will revisit this matter and restore Medicare Advantage to its true potential

COLLABORATION BETWEEN CARIBBEAN AND NEW YORK

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts made by the Caribbean Community and Common Market, CARICOM, nations and New York City, to stimulate and promote new economic partnerships.

The new relationships that were formed during this year's CARICOM conference have already begun to show prosperous results. Most notable is an agreement made between the University of the West Indies and Medgar Evers College in New York. The agreement was signed by the Honorable Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis, Dr. Denzil L. Douglas and Dr. Edison Jackson, President of Medgar Evers College.

Dr. Douglas has introduced the possibility of an exchange program between the two regions that would include educational programs in the areas of tourism, transportation, climate change, research and outreach.

This newly formed agreement will not only boost economic development in the Caribbean, but it will bridge the gap between the region and the New York based diaspora. I would like to commend the work of all parties that played a part in the creation of this agreement.

COLLABORATION BETWEEN CARIBBEAN AND NEW YORK

BASSETTERRE, ST. KITTS.—St. Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Hon. Dr. Denzil L. Douglas said a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the University of the West Indies (UWI) and the Medgar Evers College in New York would form the basis for moving forward after the Caribbean-New York Conference last week.

Speaking at the signing, Prime Minister Douglas, the Lead Head of Government for Education and Health matters in the CARICOM Quasi Cabinet, said the engagement needed to arrive at some concrete elements of a plan for collaboration.

Among the priorities Dr. Douglas suggested that should arise from the Conference were greater collaboration in research and training through the establishment of CARICOM New York Fellowships and a special Fund dedicated for exchange at the staff and student levels; a concerted effort to push the frontiers of knowledge by placing emphasis on areas of Research and Development,

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

especially in areas such as tourism, transportation and climate change and establishing common areas of research and outreach that are particularly aimed at improving the quality of life of citizens in the Caribbean and New York in such areas that connect education to health, trade, culture and promote greater public awareness especially to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS, prevention of NCDs advancing cultural industries and thereby capitalizing on some of the assets of the Caribbean Diaspora.

Prime Minister also suggested the involvement of the private sector both in the CARICOM Community and New York to sponsor goodwill tours to enhance the understanding of groups and stakeholders that share common cultural and educational objectives; placing greater emphasis on promoting courses on Caribbean Studies and the American connections in the region's Tertiary Learning Institutions (TLIs) and establishing a Charles Rangel Professorship to commemorate this momentous occasion in the annals of Caribbean-USA relations.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will foster greater ties between the two tertiary institutions in specific areas of importance to the Caribbean and the Diaspora in New York.

Professor Nigel Harris, UWI Vice Chancellor and Dr. Edison Jackson, President of the Medgar Evers College signed the MOU at the Education Symposium at the New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge. The signing came at the end of the Opening Ceremony of the Symposium which was staged as part of the two-day New York Conference on the Caribbean which began 19 June. The Symposium was held under the theme "Strengthening Collaborative Ties between New York and CARICOM Higher Education Institutions."

The Conference is geared at boosting existing ties with the United States in general and New York in particular, in the areas of education, trade and investment.

High level meetings were held between Heads of Government and key officials included Congressman Hon. Charles Rangel, Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives, the Hon. David Paterson, New York Governor; Mr. Michael Bloomberg, Mayor of New York; Mr. Marty Markowitz, Brooklyn Borough President, and top executives of Wall Street. In a brief statement Professor Harris extended gratitude to Dr. Jackson for making the symposium possible and indicated that though UWI and Medgar Evers had signed other similar documents, this one was special since it was aimed at building a relationship in areas of relevance to the Caribbean and to the Caribbean Diaspora in New York such as youth development and immigration. He expressed the hope that the MOU would usher in a partnership that would serve as a model for other relationships. The panelists at the two-hour long Symposium were Professor Nigel Harris, Professor Frances Negron Muntaner of Columbia University, Dr. Garrie Moore, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, CCNY, Ms. Myrna Bernard, Director, Human Development, Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat, and Dr. David Jones, President, Community Service Society.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately Monday night, July 14, 2008, I

was unable to cast my votes on H. Res. 1067, H. Res. 1080, and H. Con. Res. 297, and wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 486 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 1067, Recognizing the 50th anniversary of the crossing of the North Pole by the USS *Nautilus*, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for Roll Call No. 487 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 1080, Honoring the extraordinary service and exceptional sacrifice of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), known as the Screaming Eagles, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for Roll Call No. 488 on suspending the rules and passing H. Con. Res. 297, Recognizing the 60th anniversary of the integration of the United States Armed Forces, I would have voted "aye."

OHIO HOUSING CRISIS

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support the inclusion of neighborhood stabilization funds as part of the comprehensive housing package currently pending in Congress.

Last month, Chairwoman WATERS convened a field hearing in my congressional district on the housing foreclosure crisis in Ohio. During this hearing, we heard testimony from State and local government officials and housing advocates about the devastation that has been caused by subprime mortgage lending practices.

The hearing panelists shared information on their aggressive foreclosure prevention efforts which include: Governor Strickland's establishment of a Compact with major servicers to help Ohioans stay in their homes; State laws and city resolutions to address issues surrounding vacant and foreclosed properties; litigation initiated by the City of Cleveland against lenders for their violations of Ohio's public nuisance statute; and housing counseling services provided by full-service public interest organizations.

Despite all of these efforts within the State of Ohio, a common theme we heard throughout the field hearing was the dire need for an aggressive Federal response to the housing crisis. Specifically, panelists repeatedly emphasized the need for community stabilization funding.

Neighborhood stabilization funds will allow States and local governments to facilitate the purchase, rehabilitation, or demolition of vacant and foreclosed properties. During last month's field hearing, State and local government officials noted their severe lack of resources as well as the need for Federal funds to halt the cycle of disinvestment. Housing stakeholders in Ohio and across the country stand ready to utilize these emergency stabilization funds to reverse the continued downward cycle of property abandonment and declining property values.

As negotiations continue this week on this important housing legislation, I strongly urge my colleagues to support the inclusion of neighborhood stabilization funds in the final legislative package.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, on July 14, 2008, I missed rollcall votes numbered 486, a resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of the crossing of the North Pole by the USS *Nautilus* (SSN 571); 487, a resolution honoring the extraordinary service and exceptional sacrifice of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), known as the Screaming Eagles; and 488, a resolution recognizing the 60th anniversary of the integration of the United States Armed Forces.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes numbered 486, 487, and 488.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF CLARK TOWNSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Clark Township Baptist Church was founded in June 1833 and is celebrating its 175th anniversary in Warsaw, Ohio; and

Whereas, the congregation of Clark Township Baptist Church continue to be active, enthusiastic members of our community; and

Whereas, the 175th anniversary of Clark Township Baptist Church has drawn new and old congregation members to Warsaw, Ohio to celebrate the life of their church; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend Clark Township Baptist Church and its congregation for their unwavering commitment, dedication and contributions to their community and country in recognition of their 175 years.

HONORING THE MARYLAND STATE MATHCOUNTS TEAM

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievement of the Maryland Mathcounts team at the National Mathcounts Competition held in Denver on May 9, 2008. Represented by Jason Hyun, Ben Lowenstein, and Sam Zbarsky of Takoma Park Middle School, and Linus Hamilton of Hyattsville Middle School, the participants performed exceptionally well in the country's largest middle school math competition, earning a third place overall group finish. Two members of this young team also performed well individually, finishing in the top of the quarterfinal round.

Sarah Manchester, who teaches math at Takoma Park Middle School and coached the Maryland team in this impressive performance,

deserves special recognition. Maryland was the only state to be represented by more than one finalist in the individual playoff round, and Sarah's efforts to ensure that the students were prepared for this competition are reflected in the team's success. Sarah has taught Mathcounts students for a decade and continues to donate her time and energy to help her students excel.

More than 6,000 schools participate annually in the Mathcounts competition. Since it began in 1983, Mathcounts has had over seven million gifted young math students study in the program and participate in its competitions. Funded by the donations of generous individuals and corporations, the scholarships awarded to the participants provide a strong incentive for young people to commit themselves to an extracurricular program that builds math skills, improves critical thinking, and fosters teamwork. The 17,000 volunteers, like Sarah Manchester, who coach the 500,000 middle school students who participate each year pass on an enthusiasm for mathematics that is rewarding for all those involved.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to commend the students and educators who make Mathcounts such a remarkable and successful program. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding the efforts of all the Mathcounts participants, and I look forward to watching the program continue to showcase the extraordinary talents of our students and their dedicated teachers in the years to come.

TRIP TO BEIJING, CHINA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, over the Fourth of July recess, Representative CHRIS SMITH and I traveled to Beijing, China.

We had become increasingly disturbed by reports of harsh crackdowns by Chinese security forces on the dissident community in the run up to the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.

Although both Representative SMITH and I have been outspoken critics of the Chinese government over the years, we embarked on this trip with open minds ready to be convinced that the Chinese government had taken steps to improve its abysmal human rights record.

Unfortunately, what we saw while we were on the ground cannot be considered by any stretch of the imagination to be progress.

Upon our arrival, we were informed that the three people that we had invited to have dinner with us that evening were threatened by Chinese security forces not to attend and placed under house arrest. One of these individuals, a prominent human rights lawyer to whom I had presented the National Endowment for Democracy Award just weeks earlier on Capitol Hill, was taken several hours outside of Beijing and detained for the duration of our trip.

I insert two articles for the record from The New York Times and The Washington Post, which further detail the detention of these individuals.

We also visited a "house church," an underground Protestant church which is forced to

operate illegally out of private homes because the Chinese government refuses to recognize these churches as legitimate places of worship.

It was clear that we were being followed to the house church by Chinese security forces so we were only able to stay a short time because we did not want to endanger members of the congregation.

House church members and leaders are often targeted for harassment and detention by the Chinese security forces because they are viewed by the government as a threat to the stability and control of the communist regime.

One example of this repressive policy is Pastor Zhang Rongliang, also known as Uncle Liang. Pastor Zhang is the leader of the China for Christ Church, a network of house churches that is estimated to have over 10 million members throughout China.

Chinese authorities raided Pastor Zhang's home on New Year's Eve 2005 and formally arrested him. He was detained for 6 months without being charged. On June 29, 2006, Pastor Zhang was charged and convicted of fraudulently obtaining border exit documents and sentenced to 7½ years in prison. Pastor Zhang is currently being held at Henan Prison Number One and has reportedly been subjected to electric shock while imprisoned. He suffers from diabetes and hypertension. He is only allowed one 30-minute visit a month from members of his family and prison guards surround him during these visits.

During a two-hour meeting with Ambassador Li Zhaoxing, the former Chinese foreign minister who now chairs the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National People's Congress, Congressman SMITH and I both pressed for the release of detained individuals, such as Pastor Zhang. We presented Ambassador Li with a partial list of political prisoners compiled by the Congressional-Executive Commission on China and asked for the immediate release of all 734 individuals on the list. A copy of this list is available online at www.cecc.gov.

I have met with many former political and religious prisoners and dissidents like Pastor Zhang. These are peaceful people. They are not violent rogues seeking to overthrow the Chinese government. All they ask for is freedom; they yearn for freedom—the freedom to gather together and worship and celebrate and share their religious beliefs.

But the Chinese government will not allow this. They throw their own people in jail and subject them to the most base and violent forms of torture. And despite all this, the government of China was awarded the honor of hosting the 2008 Olympic Games.

In 1988, in the midst of the cold war, President Ronald Reagan publicly addressed religious leaders at the Danilov Monastery in Moscow and called on the Soviet Union to promote religious tolerance.

I call on President Bush to follow the example of Ronald Reagan. While he is in Beijing for the opening ceremonies of the Olympics, he should make a public speech calling on the Chinese government to release all the political and religious dissidents who languish in labor camps and prisons across China.

The people of China, and the dissidents who sit in their jail cells day after day, week after week, year after year, should know that the President of the United States of America and leader of the free world stands with them

in their quest for freedom, and not with the repressive communist regime of China.

[From the Washington Post, July 1, 2008]

U.S. LAWMAKERS DECRY OLYMPICS AFTER
DISSIDENTS BLOCKED

(By Chris Buckley)

BEIJING.—Two U.S. Congressmen on Tuesday urged President George W. Bush to rethink attending the Beijing Olympic Games after they were prevented from meeting Chinese human rights activists.

Republican Congressmen Frank Wolf from Virginia and Chris Smith from New Jersey said they had come to Beijing to meet Chinese citizens pressing for greater political and religious freedoms, including two who recently met the U.S. president.

But Chinese authorities pressured or forced nine activists from meeting them at a dinner on Sunday or subsequently, according to a document handed out by the lawmakers.

They said such actions, and other repressive steps taken by the Chinese Communist Party, have cast a shadow over the Games and over Bush's vow to attend them.

"Tragically, the Olympics has triggered a massive crackdown designed to silence and put beyond reach all those whose views differ from the official 'harmonious' government line," Smith told a news conference held in the U.S. embassy in Beijing.

The friction between the visitors and wary Chinese authorities has underscored the political tensions of the Games, with Beijing under criticism from Western politicians and international rights groups over Tibet, censorship and restrictions on religion and political dissent.

Wolf, who with Smith presented Chinese officials with a list of 734 Chinese prisoners they said were jailed for dissent, said Bush should not attend the Games unless there were big changes.

"I personally believe that unless there's tremendous progress over the next few weeks whereby they release some of these prisoners, I personally do not believe the president should attend. Nor do I think the Secretary of State should attend," said Wolf.

"SIMPLY RIDICULOUS"

China later hit back, saying the politicians' attempted meetings violated the claimed purpose of their visit.

"The two U.S. Congressmen came to China as guests of the United States Embassy to engage in internal communications and consultations," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao told a news conference.

"They should not engage in activities incompatible with the objective of their visit and with their status."

Speaking by telephone before leaving Beijing, Wolf called China's explanation "simply ridiculous" and said he expected the U.S. ambassador to Beijing to take up the issue.

Two of the Chinese citizens who could not meet the lawmakers, Beijing-based lawyers Li Baiguang and Li Heping, met Bush at the White House on June 23 after receiving awards from the U.S. National Endowment for Democracy.

Li Heping said security officers had ostentatiously tailed him and told him not to meet the U.S. politicians. He said by telephone that he was surprised the audience with Bush had not given him and Li Baiguang some immunity.

"He said he was very concerned about human rights and the rule of law in China, especially religious freedom and the freedom of the press," Li Heping said of the meeting.

"He also said that when he comes to Beijing for the Olympics he will raise these issues with President Hu."

Li Baiguang, an evangelical Christian who has now met Bush twice, could not be contacted. His mobile telephone was cut off and

other activists said he has been held by state security police on the outskirts of Beijing.

Wolf said the U.S. government should apply more public pressure to seek the release of jailed Chinese dissidents.

"I think you need to do it publicly," he said. "Frankly, they have to be done the way we used to do it with regard to the Soviet Union."

[From the New York Times, July 2, 2008]

CHINA BLOCKS U.S. LEGISLATORS' MEETING
(By Jim Yardley)

BEIJING.—Two United States congressmen who were in Beijing to lobby for the release of more than 700 political prisoners had hoped to have dinner on Sunday with a group of Chinese human rights lawyers. But security agents had a different idea: they detained some of the lawyers and warned the others to stay away.

The incident is the latest example of how Chinese security agents are increasing pressure on dissidents in advance of the Beijing Olympics in August. The ruling Communist Party has issued broader orders for local governments to defuse public protests, as a violent demonstration involving an estimated 30,000 people erupted last weekend in southwestern China.

In Beijing, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry said the congressmen, Republicans Frank R. Wolf of Virginia and Christopher H. Smith of New Jersey, had overstepped their visas in arranging to meet the lawyers. The legislators, both sharp critics of China, expressed outrage over the interference by security agents.

"The people we were supposed to have dinner with all got stopped," said Mr. Smith in a telephone interview on Tuesday afternoon. "All of the world is watching, and this kind of behavior doesn't bring anything but more scrutiny to their human rights abuses."

Mr. Wolf called on President Bush to boycott the Olympic opening ceremonies if the detained lawyers were not released and if there was "no progress" on releasing 734 political prisoners on a list the two congressmen presented to the Chinese.

President Bush has been invited to the opening ceremony by Chinese president Hu Jintao and has rejected calls that he not attend.

On Tuesday afternoon, Liu Jianchao, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, said the two legislators, who had travel visas, should not have tried to meet with the lawyers. "They should not intervene in China's internal affairs or conduct something that is harmful to China-U.S. relations," he said during a regular news briefing.

Asked if visiting congressmen must get approval from the Chinese government to meet with private citizens, Mr. Liu added: "The two congressmen applied to come to China to get in touch with the United States consulate. We hope the two U.S. congressmen can respect the country they visit and obey Chinese laws. Regarding the issues on religion and human rights, the exchange between the two countries is more meaningful than meeting private citizens."

The congressmen said they came to Beijing to discuss human rights, religious freedom, the Olympics and Darfur. Mr. Smith said they met Monday with the country's former foreign minister, Li Zhaoxing, and gave him their list of political prisoners. "He took it and said they would look at it," Mr. Smith said. "Our argument is that these people have done nothing wrong."

The guest list at the Sunday night dinner was supposed to include three activist lawyers, Li Baiguang, Teng Biao and Li Heping. They were among this year's winners of the "Democracy Award" by the National Endowment of Democracy in Washington. Li

Baiguang and Li Heping have met with President Bush.

On Sunday afternoon, authorities took Li Baiguang to a Beijing suburb, where he was placed under house arrest, according to Chinese Human Rights Defenders, an advocacy group. Mr. Teng, who was also detained earlier this year, was taken to the same Beijing suburb but later returned to his apartment under house arrest. Another well-known lawyer, Jiang Tianyong, was blocked from leaving his apartment by two Beijing police officers, the advocacy group said. Still another lawyer, Li Fangping, said three police officers were stationed outside his apartment and threatened to follow him wherever he went.

The two representatives did manage to meet with a Chinese pastor, Zhang Mingxuan, but Mr. Smith said security agents placed the pastor under house arrest afterward.

The tightened scrutiny of dissidents comes as China is making broader efforts to increase security and curb public protests as the Olympics draw near. On June 8, the central government held a video conference to launch a national campaign to prevent petition campaigns by disgruntled citizens and to stop demonstrations and other "mass incidents" in the name of preserving harmony for the Olympics.

Localized demonstrations have become common in China, especially in rural areas where peasants protest against illegal land seizures and corruption. Often, peasants organize petition campaigns and travel to Beijing to present their grievances. But authorities, concerned about a potentially embarrassing spectacle during the Games, are calling on local officials to solve problems and prevent petitioners from coming to the capital.

The potential for unexpected protests was illustrated over the weekend when thousands of people burned government buildings in the county of Weng'an in Guizhou Province. China Daily, the official English-language newspaper, reported that 30,000 people participated in a "mass action" after a smaller group protested against possible police malfeasance in handling a case that involved the death of a local teenage girl.

Family members of the girl believe she was killed by relatives of local officials. The riot erupted after the police ruled her death a drowning and cleared the officials' relatives. Rioters burned government buildings and smashed police cars. Paramilitary police have since been dispatched to the county to restore order.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE
175TH ANNIVERSARY OF
MINERVA, OHIO

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, the village of Minerva, Ohio is celebrating their 175 years of history this July; and

Whereas, the members of the community of Minerva, Ohio are active, enthusiastic members of their area; and

Whereas, Minerva is holding an exciting weekend of tours, garden shows, and historical scenes to commemorate this anniversary; and

Whereas, Minerva continues to be an important and vibrant asset of Southeastern Ohio

and offers an outstanding quality of life to its residents; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend Minerva, Ohio and its citizens for their unwavering commitment, dedication and contributions to their community and country in recognition of their 175 years.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE
HONORABLE J. BENJAMIN EWING

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the Honorable J. Benjamin Ewing, State Representative for the 35th Representative district for the great State of Delaware. Representative Ewing has represented his district honorably and with great distinction since 1987. However, his public service did not begin then but rather as a young man when he served our country in Korea in the United States Marine Corps and then for 20 years with the Delaware State Police where he rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. His work in community service, government and politics has provided Delawareans and the constituents of his district with tremendous peace of mind knowing that an individual of Representative Ewing's stature was always willing to look after the best interest of his constituents while giving them the best possible service.

During my years as Governor and in the U.S. House of Representatives, I have always enjoyed working with Representative Ewing to assist him and the constituents of his district on issues relating to social security, highways, postal service, development, health care, and the many other issues his constituents face on a daily basis. During his career in government, Ben has always put the people of his district first and worked diligently on their behalf. While the people of the 35th Representative District will elect a new Representative this fall, they will have a difficult time finding a Representative as qualified, humble, or one who works as patiently on a daily basis to assist their each and every need.

Ben was instrumental in identifying the need to renovate and develop the new visitors center in Bridgeville, Delaware as a combined State Police barracks, paramedic unit and service center, and as a result it now bears his name. His commitment to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, NRA, American Legion and his Scottish heritage is without question.

I want to publicly thank, recognize and acknowledge Ben Ewing for his many decades of service and numerous contributions to the State of Delaware. He is an excellent role model for those who aspire to serve their community through public service and he has raised the bar for all who follow in his footsteps. While I will miss working with Ben on a regular basis to solve issues facing our constituents, I hope to continue to seek his counsel and advice on issues of importance to all Delawareans. He has been a good friend to me and all Delawareans.

HONORING KALAMAZOO GOSPEL
MISSION OF KALAMAZOO

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today in honor of the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission of Kalamazoo, Michigan, to commemorate its 75th anniversary.

What began in 1933 with Jacob and Anna Hildebrand serving soup and sandwiches at tent meetings has evolved into the largest mission for the homeless in southwest Michigan. In 2007, the mission served over 180,000 meals to those who were hungry, and provided a warm bed to over 90,000 more in need of shelter, all while imparting that true healing comes through the power of Christ.

I stand here today honored that such a caring and compassionate organization serves the needs of the less fortunate in southwest Michigan, and continues to selflessly struggle to make a difference in the lives of "the least, the last, and the lost." Believing all people to be brothers and sisters in Christ, the love and respect that the mission provides both to the homeless and to the community is truly remarkable.

I would like to sincerely thank the staff and volunteers whose spiritual strength, commitment, and dedication have made the work of the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission possible for the past 75 years.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION OF ALPHA
KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today, in recognition of the centennial celebration of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated (AKA), founded on January 15, 1908 at Howard University by nine visionary young African American women. In an era when the African American voice was stifled by prejudice, these collegiate women formed an alliance that has transcended generations. Their mission of "service to all mankind" still resounds world-wide through a coalition of over 900 undergraduate and graduate chapters comprised of 225,000 college-trained women. This week, I am pleased to join my colleagues in welcoming them to the city of their founding, Washington, DC and commend them for their hard work and commitment to the community.

For the past 100 years, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. has and continues to demonstrate their dedication to service through a variety of programs including Economics, Sisterhood and Partnerships program in which members provide community awareness about economic issues and the importance of mental and physical health. Other programs include the Educational Advancement Foundation (EAF), which strives to make a difference in the lives of young women and men. EAF awards scholarships, fellowships, grants and mini-grants to young people across America.

I would like to recognize all of the chapters in my great State of Ohio including: Alpha Lambda, Alpha Omega, Alpha Sigma Omega, Beta Eta Omega, Beta Theta Omega, Beta Xi, Delta Delta, Delta Phi, Delta Pi, Epsilon Chi, Epsilon Mu Omega, Iota Iota, Iota Phi Omega, Lambda Mu, Lambda Phi Omega, Omega, Omicron, Phi Psi Omega, Pi Gamma, Pi Omicron, Psi Eta Omega, Rho Omega, Sigma Mu Omega, Sigma Omega, Tau Lambda Omega, Theta, Zeta Alpha Omega, Zeta Theta Omega Chapters. Your service to our great State is immeasurable.

Additionally, I am privileged to have had the opportunity to call so many of the members of AKA my colleagues and friends. I would especially like to recognize my colleagues here in Congress who are members of AKA; Representatives SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, DIANE WATSON and the late Juanita Millender-McDonald who have and continue to serve their constituents and this country with distinction.

Therefore, on behalf of the Congress of the United States and the people of the 11th Congressional district of Ohio, I wish to extend congratulations and best wishes to the women of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. on this monumental occasion. I look forward to continuing to work with you towards the betterment of our communities and this country.

MEDICARE IMPROVEMENT FOR PA-
TIENTS AND PROVIDERS ACT OF
2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the President's shortsighted veto of H.R. 6331, the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008, and urge my colleagues to vote to override this veto.

Medicare has been a true success story for seniors—but Medicare will continue to succeed only as long as doctors continue to participate. And no doctor can afford to take a 10 percent cut in payments.

Last week, H.R. 6331 passed by overwhelming bipartisan majorities in both the House and Senate because our Nation's health depends on it. The bill eliminates the Medicare-killing payment cut and provides a 1.1 percent increase for physicians for 2009. It provides mental health parity in the Medicare program—something I've been fighting for, because people suffering from mental illness are just as in need of treatment as people suffering physical illness. The bill also allows poor people to keep more of their assets and still qualify for help with Medicare costs.

My district includes more hospitals than probably any other district in the country—and all the doctors affiliated with those hospitals have offices in my district. They have been clear—unless they receive fair payment for their work, they cannot afford to continue to treat Medicare patients. Without good doctors, seniors' health will suffer. Congress was right to pass this bill the first time, and I hope we stand strong to pass it again today. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting to override the President's veto.

DISCUSSION OF THE CARIBBEAN
DIASPORA AT THE 2008 CARICOM
CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK CITY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce an article that recapitulates the successful discussions that took place during the 2008 Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) conference on the Caribbean Diaspora in the United States. The article was written by Tony Best and was published in the July 8, 2008 edition of CaribNews. This New York based publication serves as the voice of the Caribbean community in the New York metropolitan area.

The article entitled: "Work Together" summarizes the forum held at York College in Queens, New York. Several Caribbean Heads of State were in attendance along with fellow members of Congress, Ms. YVETTE CLARKE and Mr. GREGORY MEES.

Discussions about the Caribbean Diaspora took place as many members of the panel recognized the great importance of the Caribbean community living and working abroad. Prime Minister of Barbados, David Thompson was quoted as saying, "We Caribbean leaders have recognized that the time has come for us to tap the resources available to us from the Diaspora".

I am both proud and honored to have been able to help facilitate dialogue between CARICOM Head of State and the New York based Diaspora. Conferences such as this open up lines of communication which contribute greatly to economic growth and development in the Caribbean.

[From the CaribNews, July 8, 2008]

WORK TOGETHER

(By Tony Best)

The picture at York College of the City University of New York was essentially Caribbean.

And for good reason.

An audience of about 300 people, truly representative of the West Indian Diaspora, gathered in the large Performing Arts Center of the school in Queens to be addressed by a number of Caribbean Heads of Government or their representatives on issues chosen by the people themselves.

Billed as a conversation with the Diaspora, a "Dialogue," if you will, the function was the penultimate item on the program for a much anticipated two-day Caribbean Community Conference attended at different times by nine of the region's Prime Ministers and a President, Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo of Guyana.

On stage were Prime Ministers David Thompson, Barbados, Dean Barrow, Belize, Baldwin Spencer, Antigua and Barbuda, Stephenson King, St. Lucia, Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, President of Guyana, senior cabinet ministers from Jamaica and Suriname who headed their countries' delegations, and diplomatic officials from Trinidad and Tobago, St. Kitts-Nevis, the Bahamas, and Dominica.

It stands to reason, then, why the reality of the occasion didn't escape PM Thompson. "As I was sitting here I was reflecting on when last I, as a political leader in the Caribbean, had the opportunity to address what one might call a truly Caribbean audience like this," meaning people from throughout the region assembled under one roof," said Thompson.

Thompson, one of the three heads of Government invited to make an opening statement before the function got down to "brass tacks", an exchange of views between the leaders and the West Indians who now call New York home-away-home, seemingly felt compelled to remark on the essential qualities that separate Jamaicans, Guyanese, Trinidadians, Antiguan, Vincentians, Grenadians and the rest of the Diaspora from other immigrants in North America, Europe and elsewhere. The dividing line is the desire to return to the land of their birth and live in comfort.

Admittedly, only a fraction of the millions of West Indians now living and working abroad ever return home and those who do usually keep one foot firmly planted in the U.S. be it New York, Boston, Miami, Hartford or Los Angeles and the other in their country of birth.

"If you are living in Ireland and meet somebody from Australia or the Ukraine, very seldom do they tell you that they are returning to those places. But most of the people you meet from the Caribbean they want to return home, said the Barbados leader.

That was why, he, added, West Indians living abroad should continue to find ways to be involved in what their countries are doing.

As Thompson saw it, the immigrants should have another item on their list of priorities: using their presence abroad to help the Caribbean region achieve its social and economic development goals.

"I don't think in your daily rounds and wherever you hold positions of influence, authority or where you can use your diplomacy and other skills you should forget to put the Caribbean's case forward and advance the interest of the Caribbean region," he said.

President Jagdeo added another dimension to the task: the election of officials to federal, state and local legislative bodies.

"While Barbados is important and Guyana and Jamaica are important we are Caribbean people," he told the gathering. "We have to work together as Caribbean people and (when we do) it significantly magnifies the power that people have within this society."

One way of flexing that muscle while at the same time pushing their own and the Caribbean's agenda was to help get people "who look like us and who share our views elected to offices at the local level, the state level and hopefully at the national level so that they can be sympathetic to the cause of the Caribbean and to make a better life and space for the Caribbean people who live here in the United States of America," Jagdeo argued.

But he didn't stop there.

"We hope that in November you all turn out and elect the person who we feel would be sensitive to our interest," he said. "This is a person I have seen in an image squatting outside of a small hut in Kenya."

"This of a person who although he is a Christian, he is very proud of that, grew up with an understanding of the Muslim faith," the president added. "Anyone who shares these experiences will understand us better, and will understand our challenges. We need that kind of person to lead the United States."

Although President Jagdeo was careful not to call a name and didn't pinpoint the elected position he had in mind, few persons, if any at all, had failed to identify U.S. Senator Barack whose quest for the White House in Washington has captivated Americans and has warmed the hearts of people around the world.

In his statement, PM King, who narrowly survived a recent political attempt and power struggle by leading members of his own ruling United Workers Party in St. Lucia to remove him from office, said that "it was important, vital was a better way of putting it, for Caribbean nations to dip into the vast human reservoir of talented human resources from the Caribbean that can be found in the United States". "We Caribbean leaders have recognized that the time has come for us to tap the resources available to us from the Diaspora," he said.

What a pity then that such an atmosphere of cordiality and interest wasn't reciprocated by a handful of immigrants, no more than five or six, mainly Guyanese, who turned up at the function to harass and condemn Dr. Jagdeo, and to do it in a disrespectful and shameless manner by shouting at him from their seats and before the microphones in an attempt to disrupt his presentation. Fortunately, the President was able to give even better than he got, responding to them in a clear and unemotional tone. But perhaps the most rousing welcome was reserved for the Belizean Prime Minister, the first person of truly African-heritage to lead CARICOM's lone country in Central America. Some of his enthusiastic political supporters who were seeing him for the first time since his election victory jumped for joy and waved their arms in delight and in turn were warmly acknowledged by a Prime Minister who seemingly enjoyed every second of the acclaim. PM Spencer, the Antiguan head of government, was upbeat as he soaked in the cheerful response from Antiguan in the audience and regularly took the opportunity to explain his government's and CARICOM's stance on domestic and regional issues.

The opportunity for an exchange of ideas wasn't lost on two members of Congress, Yvette Clarke of Brooklyn and Gregory Meeks of Queens, two lawmakers with large Caribbean constituents. When the time came for them to speak, they grasped the chance with both hands and used it to pledge continuing support for the region.

Interestingly, a public figure who wasn't there but was on most people's minds was U.S. Congressman Charles Rangel, Chairman of the powerful Ways and Means Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives.

It was Rangel who engineered the conference and opened the doors of Wall Street to the Prime Ministers and President Jagdeo. It was people's way of saying thanks to him. Of the leaders who came to New York, Jagdeo was the only one who had to face a few placard carrying hostile demonstrators. From all indications, he handled himself with aplomb, even breaking away from the protective shield of the Secret Service to have an exchange with some of his critics. "I was not afraid to talk to them," he said afterwards. In the event though, as William Shakespeare's immortal line reminds us "All's well that Ends Well."

And the conference certainly ended on a high note when some of the leaders joined U.S. Congressman Charles Rangel, Chairman of the influential Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives, for breakfast at Sylvia's, a New York City landmark in Harlem.

The event at York College was chaired by Dr. Ivelaw Griffith, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. He's an expert on Caribbean security and has written several books and scholarly papers on the subject. The College's President Dr. Marcia Keizs, a Jamaican, set the tone with a welcome that reminded many in the theater-

style auditorium of their own experiences as immigrants: leaving home to go to better education abroad but with plans to return to the birthplace. Instead, they decide to stay on and in the process rise to the pinnacle of academic or professional success, or both.

Helen Marshall, the first Black person elected to serve as Borough President of Queens, also spoke and emphasized the value of maintaining links between the U.S. and the Caribbean. In her own Guyana, the homeland of her parents, it is a good example of bridging the geographic divide.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, on July 14, 2008, due to a delayed flight, I was unable to cast one recorded vote on Roll-call vote 486, concerning H. Res. 1067, recognizing the 50th anniversary of the crossing of the North Pole by the U.S.S. *Nautilus*. Had I cast my vote, I would have voted "aye". I was present and able to vote on the next two measures.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE
"UNITED STATES PAROLE COM-
MISSION EXTENSION ACT OF
2008"

HON. JOHN CONYERS JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the "United States Parole Commission Extension Act of 2008" with Ranking Member LAMAR SMITH and Representatives BOBBY SCOTT, LOUIE GOHMERT and ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON. This legislation will extend the Parole Commissions' authority for another three years. This will be the fifth time since the elimination of Federal parole in 1987 that the Parole Commission has been reauthorized.

In the more than 20 years since the elimination of Federal parole, Congress has debated whether or not to phase-out the Parole Commission. Currently, the Commission has jurisdiction over all decisions regarding parole release for D.C. prisoners and decisions on mandatory release supervision and revocation for all persons serving D.C. felony sentences. The Commission also has jurisdiction over Federal and foreign transfer treaty offenders convicted before November 1987, some military code offenders and state defendants in the U.S. Marshals Service Witness Protection Program. According to the Parole Commission, at least 7500 people will fall into one of these categories by 2010. This is why in the 1996 extension of the Parole Commission, Congress finally recognized that there would be a need for the Commission through 2002 and beyond.

It is for these reasons that I am introducing this important legislation with my fellow Judiciary Committee Members and Representative HOLMES NORTON.

IN MEMORY OF TONY SNOW

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on July 12th, former White House Press Secretary, writer, commentator, patriot and a true gentleman, Tony Snow, passed away from colon cancer. Throughout his life and his career, Mr. Snow earned a reputation for wit, thoughtfulness, and intellectual prowess that brought him admiration and acclaim from his political allies and opponents.

A graduate of Davidson College in North Carolina, Tony Snow had a diverse career beginning as an editorial writer for a local North Carolina paper. He grew in the field of journalism to become a syndicated columnist and commentator for several well respected news programs. He was a speechwriter for President George H.W. Bush. After leaving the White House for the first time, Mr. Snow took a post at the Fox News Channel—helping to build that network's news programming—before returning to the White House as press secretary for President George W. Bush.

I am personally grateful that a former member of the staff of South Carolina's Second District, Emily Lawrimore, had the distinct honor to work with Tony Snow in her post as assistant press secretary for President Bush. I know from her experience and the stories of generosity and decency from Mr. Snow's friends and colleagues that we have truly lost an honorable individual who believed in rising above the political rhetoric in this Nation. With his college background at Davidson, the people of the Carolinas especially appreciated his success. At this time of loss, our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Jill, and their three children.

CONGRATULATING CHARLIE DANIEL

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, one of the finest men I know, Charlie Daniel, has now completed 5 years as a newspaper editorial cartoonist in my hometown of Knoxville, Tennessee.

Charlie is one of Knoxville's most popular and respected citizens. Almost every morning for all these years, people in East Tennessee have been inspired or made angry by, or perhaps simply have laughed at one of his cartoons.

He has certainly helped bring about better government through his work, but the laughter is all right, too. There is not enough good humor in the political process today.

I have one of his cartoons hanging in my Knoxville office and two are on the wall of my home. I have many favorites among his work, but I will give just two examples.

The first showed a father reading a newspaper with the headline "Americans Hire Illegals to Do Work They Don't Want to Do." Then it showed a little boy with his arm around an obviously Hispanic little boy, with

the first boy saying, "I hired Juan to do my homework."

The second showed a man with a clipboard standing at the front door of the home of a very angry man who said, "Well it's about time someone came to ask my opinion," and the man with the clipboard said, "Sir, I'm just here to read your meter."

Charlie worked from 1958 until the early 1990s at the Knoxville Journal, which for most of its history was our morning daily newspaper. When the Journal closed, he began to work for the Knoxville News Sentinel where he remains today.

I worked at the Journal in 1968 and 1969, hired by the longtime editor, Guy Smith, who also was the man who hired Charlie.

The Journal in those days gave titles easier than they gave money, and I was the Assistant State Editor, working under a woman named Juanita Glenn.

Last year I was interviewed in my Washington office by a reporter for the Wall Street Journal. As we walked out, I told her I had once been Assistant State Editor for the Knoxville Journal. I didn't tell her that among my duties were the TV logs and the obituaries.

The Journal newsroom in those days had the most colorful cast of characters I have ever been around.

The corner of my desk touched the desk of Dick Evans, the morning editor and a great journalist. I will never forget how he slammed down his phone after every phone call, no matter whether it was a good call or bad.

Others who I remember so well who worked at the Journal besides Charlie, were Steve Humphrey, Tom Sweeten, Byron Drinnon, Bill Vaughan, Sam Venable, Dudley Brewer, Pat Fields, Bob Adams, Bill Bolus, Jim Skelton, Ben Byrd, Russ Bebb, Ted Griffith, Al Roberts, Hugh Lunsford, Tom Greene, Doug Price, Raymond Flowers, and Margie Trent.

Ron McMahan, Ralph Griffith, and Margaret Underwood, all of whom I knew very well, had left before I worked at the Journal to work in Washington for Senator Howard Baker. One of my longtime best friends, Bill Vaughan, later left to work for Congressman Jimmy Quillen, and even Dick Evans left to work for the Department of Commerce.

A few days ago, Sam Venable, now a longtime columnist for the Knoxville News Sentinel and also a former Journal employee, wrote a wonderful column in tribute to Charlie.

I would like to congratulate Charlie on 50 great years in the news business and also thank him for his service to our community in many ways.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would request that the Sam Venable column about Charlie Daniel be reprinted in the RECORD at this point, and I would like to call it to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

50 YEARS AND STILL ON THE JOB

(By Sam Venable)

One of the most poignant cartoons Charlie Daniel ever produced wasn't a drawing at all.

It ran on the editorial page of the old Knoxville Journal on Saturday, Nov. 23, 1968, two days after the death of the newspaper's legendary editor.

"Today I find my limited talents fall far too short of paying proper tribute to Guy L. Smith—a great man," Daniel wrote in his signature block letters. "I shall miss his insight, his leadership and his humor—but most of all I shall miss the man who gave me the opportunity to fill this space each day."

That was the first and only time Charlie found himself at a loss for an image. Pretty decent statement about a 50-year career that has produced an estimated 15,000 cartoons and four books.

"I really was stymied," Charlie recalled of that moment four decades ago. "It was very personal for me. Here was the guy who gave me my shot at a time when newspaper editorial cartooning was at a low point."

Alas, the cycle has come around to an even lower ebb. Charlie, who joined the News Sentinel staff after the Journal's closure in 1992, is one of only 80 newspaper editorial cartoonists working in America today. Theirs never was a populous force, but at the craft's peak in the 1960s and '70s, nearly 300 were using their skills to poke, prod, tweak and guide the nation's conscience. Usually with a laugh.

Fortunately for readers of the News Sentinel, this 78-year-old treasure has no intention of setting his pens aside.

"I'll stay as long as the light bulb comes on," Charlie laughed. "I have no hobbies. I don't fish or paint or play golf. If I retired, I'd just go home and bug Patsy (his wife of 54 years). We have trouble making it through a weekend."

You'll soon be reading, seeing and hearing a lot about Charlie Daniel. The News Sentinel is celebrating his golden anniversary this month in a variety of ways.

In next Sunday's Life and Arts section, staff writer Amy McRary will profile the life of her fellow Tar Heel. On the same day, our Perspective pages will showcase some of his classics.

Readers are invited to join the festivities as well. A display of Daniel drawings through the years graces our lobby at 2332 News Sentinel Drive, just off Western Avenue. It'll be open to the public 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday through September.

As one of the few journalists who served with Charlie at both the Journal and News Sentinel, I'm qualified to propose Daniel trivia. Such as:

—Why is the plaque he won for highway safety awareness inscribed to "I. Daniel"?

(Because he used to put a double descender on the "D" on his tag line, and it looked like an "I." To keep from embarrassing the highway officials, he really should have changed his name to Ignatius.)

—What was the ghastly mixture of pipe tobacco he used to fog the Journal newsroom with before kicking his smoking habit?

(Half-and-half and some fancy-smancy aromatic blend neither of us could immediately recall after all these years; fittingly, Charlie termed it "Half-and-Half-and-the-Other-Half.")

Obviously, it has been a joy to work alongside Charlie at both newspapers. And I mean "alongside" literally.

As a college student in the late 1960s, my Journal police reporter desk sat an arm's length away from his drawing room. Here in the News Sentinel's new building, Chas and I reside in neighboring cubicles. I call it the Geezer Quad.

That's going to change in a few weeks when our newsroom undergoes a fruit basket turnover desk rearrangement—one of those New Age efficiency initiatives the suits dream up over noon martinis.

Charlie will be moving into the old business news department, which is shuffling to heaven-knows-where, while I'll be going over to his old cubicle. This is called progress.

But I maintain nothing will change, because Charlie, dangnabbit, will still be closer to the window and thus will have greater access to the muse who delivers inspiration on a daily basis.

Hey, I need the muse! Not Charlie! This guy swims in creative juices!

Charlie shows up around 7:30 a.m. and spends several hours scanning newspapers, journals and magazines. Then he doodles with the vast array of ideas the %\$#@! muse has dumped into his lap, cranks out three or four potential cartoons for the next day, decides on one, colors it and saunters out the front door, carefree as a hoppy toad.

I, on the other hand, am lucky to wake up in time to grab lunch, pour a cup of coffee, exchange office gossip with colleagues, compare fishing stories over the phone with friends, e-mail the latest bawdy jokes I've heard to everyone in my address book, drink more coffee, loudly curse the moron who didn't rebrew coffee, check my parlay sheets, drink even more coffee—and then type myself into a furious, sweaty, nail-biting panic till deadline, milking the lone thread of creativity I stole from someone else until it is toast-dry. Is this fair?

OK, so here's the serious truth: Charlie Daniel is blessed with the quickest wit this side of Hollywood. Plus the ability to take that humor, reduce it to a drawing and zing his point home in a panel the size of a Kleenex.

Try it sometime. After you've spent a week in frustration, you might understand how difficult the task is day after day, year after year.

Yet he dismisses the silly notion that he's ever had a real job.

"I'm doing what I did in the second grade," he says. "I've never gone high-tech. I still draw with a pen and paper, not on a computer screen."

Perhaps. But you don't stay on top of this game without a keen eye for news and a comedian's sense of timing.

"Some of my earlier work was overdone," he said. "I've learned to know when to quit a drawing. Just make your point and stop."

"Also, editorial cartoons have a short life span. Next week, somebody might look at it and say, 'What the heck was that all about?' At the same time, you can't be too quick with an idea or else you'll be ahead of the public."

An excellent example occurred recently when NASA announced it was sending plumbing materials to the International Space Station to fix a broken toilet. The next morning, Charlie's cartoon showed a giant plunger blasting off. When confused readers began calling, he realized he'd struck too soon.

"I probably should have given that one a day or two more," he said. "But you're always juggling with the fact that bloggers and late-night TV folks are already using the same material."

Let me tell you a few things I've learned about "Cholly" after working with him over most of 40 years:

The same fellow who has rubbed shoulders with presidents and barons of commerce is one of the most laid-back, down-to-earth, genuine nice guys you'll ever meet.

He can, and often does, make a serious point without having to dip his pen into poison ink.

He is a five-time nominee for journalism's highest award, the Pulitzer Prize.

He is soft-spoken, leads a quiet life of humble service to society's lost and downtrodden, and is quick to laugh at himself.

He takes immense delight in sharing with me visceral hate mail from the occasional reader who either misunderstood a cartoon or was its most-deserved target. Or, as one nutty reviewer ranted in misplaced criticism of country music legend Charlie Daniels (with an "s"), "I hate your music, too!"

I was sitting in the audience in 2005 for a humor-in-politics seminar hosted by the Howard Baker Center at the University of Tennessee. The panel featured some of the

nation's most noted political wits, including the late syndicated columnist Art Buchwald.

Ask anyone who saw this performance: The others were funny, but Charlie brought the house down with self-deprecating lines, one after another.

That same shy attitude is reflected when he talks about the impact of his editorial cartoons:

"I'd be happy hitting .350."

Trust me, his batting average is exceedingly higher. Ol' Ignatius Daniel has made journalism's All-Star roster 50 years straight—and counting.

MEDICARE IMPROVEMENTS FOR PATIENTS AND PROVIDERS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of overriding the President's veto of H.R. 6331, the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act.

For the past several weeks, Congress has debated an issue that should not be considered controversial—health care for our Nation's seniors. This important piece of legislation addresses impeding cuts to physicians' Medicare payment rates. The issue not only affects seniors in my district of El Paso, Texas, but also hurts access to health care for all El Pasoans.

The most important issue to consider when discussing this bill is that the provisions not only stop the impending 10.6 percent cut, but it ensures that seniors and people with disabilities can continue to see the doctors of their choice.

It is also critical to understand that a cut to Medicare will have a significant impact on similar programs. For instance, these cuts would not only affect those covered by Medicare, but it would also threaten access to health care for military members and their families under the military health program, TRICARE. Physicians serving our troops also face the 10.6 percent cut due because TRICARE payments are directly tied to Medicare.

Also, private insurance companies look to Medicare to base their physician reimbursement rates. Physicians in El Paso and across the Nation rely on reimbursement by Medicare and other health care insurance groups to cover health care services rendered when a patient does not pay the full cost of care. In a recent survey of Texas physicians, more than 60 percent stated they would be forced to stop seeing Medicare patients should their reimbursement rates be cut.

H.R. 6331 is significant legislation that eliminates the cuts to Medicare payments for the remainder of 2008 and provides a 1.1 percent increase for 2009. The bill also extends and improves low-income assistance programs for Medicare beneficiaries. Finally, the bill protects seniors' access to therapy services.

I am extremely disappointed at President Bush's obvious disregard for Congress and the people they represent by vetoing this critical legislative proposal. By doing so, the President has sent a clear message to seniors

that he does not believe providing them with access to quality health care is a priority of his administration.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of overriding the veto and by doing so, support Medicare beneficiaries' ability to choose their physicians.

RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, today I will vote to refer House Resolution 1345 to the Judiciary Committee. My vote does not reflect a belief that this Resolution deserves continued consideration in the House of Representatives, instead it was a vote cast to preclude consideration of the Resolution on the floor of the House.

As you know, the Constitution provides for "impeachment for, and conviction of, treason, bribery or other high crimes and misdemeanors." Whether we agree or disagree with this President, most Americans—including myself—do not feel this high threshold has been met. Furthermore, as the lone representative for North Dakota in the United States House of Representatives, I take the responsibility of representing the beliefs and values of my State seriously, and I believe I am reflecting prevailing view among the majority of North Dakotans on this issue.

Again, I do not believe that the House of Representatives should be considering the highly partisan issue of impeachment at this time. Bringing up this Resolution on the floor of the House would not only waste valuable floor time, but would also distract from far more pressing national issues and undermine the bipartisan cooperation that is necessary to pass effective and timely legislation.

CARIB NEWS EDITORIALS SPEAK OF PROGRESS IN THE CARIBBEAN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD two editorials from the June 24, 2008, publication of *CaribNews*.

The first editorial is entitled "Caribbean Heritage: Building on Its Foundations In a Foreign Land." The piece reminds us of the distance that those of Caribbean heritage have traveled both physically and figuratively. "Confidence in their inner strength has helped people from the Caribbean to win their independence from an imperialistic stranglehold, fight alongside their long-standing African-American allies, in the battle for respect for people's human rights, and succeed in opening up new vistas for the generations that come after them." Caribbean Americans have come a long way from being strangers in a foreign land to gaining recognition for their contributions to American culture.

The second editorial is entitled "Wanted: A Productive Caribbean Community Conference." This piece speaks of the importance of the CARICOM Conference but also how important it is that the leaders of CARICOM take the lead on the next steps necessary for the Conference to have tangible results. To make sure that follow-up is taken care of, it has been suggested that CARICOM "consider establishing a permanent diplomatic outpost whose responsibility would be to ensure that regional initiatives . . . are not simply talked about but are launched." The editorial echoes the voice of many in the opinion that the CARICOM leaders have done badly in the past with follow-up. It is now up to them to make sure that the benefits of the conference are realized.

[From the CaribNews, June 24, 2008]

WANTED: A PRODUCTIVE CARIBBEAN
COMMUNITY CONFERENCE

"The Diaspora is essential to our success." Dr. Denzil Douglas was referring to the hundreds of thousands, some say million-plus immigrants from the English, French, Dutch and Spanish-speaking countries that comprise the Caribbean archipelago.

Actually, he was zeroing in on a major reason why most of Caricom's Prime Ministers and Presidents are heading to New York City this week for a dialogue with nationals of their countries who have made the north-eastern region of the United States their home.

For in organizing the first-ever summit of Caribbean leaders in New York City, the planners put meetings with the Diaspora high on the agenda. That made a lot of sense. Caribbean-New Yorkers, indeed West Indian-Americans, as they sometimes refer to themselves, are part of the vertebral column, a segment of the region's economic and social backbone.

It would be outside the realm of common sense for a two day conference of the kind being arranged to occur without a meaningful dialogue between the leaders and the Antiguan, Belizeans, Bahamians, Barbados, Grenadians, Dominicans, Guyanese, Haitians, Jamaicans, Vincentians, Kittians, St. Lucians, Trinidadians, you name them.

U.S. Congressman Charles Rangel, Chairman of the powerful Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives and easily one of the most influential members on Capitol Hill summed up the situation well when he told this newspaper "we see this as an opportunity for the leaders of these sovereign nations of the Caribbean to meet with their nationals and have an important dialogue."

But exchanging views is one thing, acting on the ideas is another. Far too often Caribbean leaders come to the City, visit Miami, Toronto, Boston, Hartford and other places with large Caribbean immigrant populations, have meetings, promise a lot but deliver on precious little.

The real problem is a lack of an effective follow up and that's a commitment which the heads of government can make and solve. Caricom itself should consider establishing, a permanent diplomatic outpost whose responsibility would be to ensure that regional initiatives designed to forge stronger links with the Diaspora are not simply talked about but are launched.

Granted, Caribbean countries have their own missions and Consulates-General in Washington and New York to get things done but that's at the individual nation level.

Yes, we know that the money supply is tight and that at a time of escalating energy and food prices the countries have other priorities. But for a region which receives bil-

lions annually from its overseas nationals, a slender operation with well defined set of goals can't break the bank.

But the Diaspora isn't the only major objective of the summit that begins on Thursday and ends the following day. Investment and trade are crucial to Caricom's future prosperity and any concerted effort to help open the doors to such investment would be useful. The leaders are going to Wall Street. Goldman Sachs, one of the world's leading investment banks and the New York Stock Exchange, another financial services industry leader, are to host the heads of state or government at closed door meetings. In addition, Ambassador Susan Schwab, U.S. Special Trade Representative is coming to New York to sit down to talk trade and explore opportunities to increase the flow of goods from the region to the United States and the other way around.

Now that the legislation which extends the life of the Caribbean Basin Initiative has survived the threat of a veto by President George Bush, Ambassador Schwab should be in a position to tell the leaders how they can link arms so their countries can export more to the U.S.

Congressman Rangel, who brokered both the Wall Street sessions and the talks with Schwab, was careful to limit his expectations to the goals of the Caribbean. That's wise.

"I would hope that the Caricom leaders get what they wish out of the meeting with Ambassador Schwab," was the way he articulated it.

It wasn't simply a matter of being diplomatic but his approach was essentially correct because in the end it's up to the executive branch of the U.S. government and to the Caribbean states to agree on the architecture of trade.

Education and the relationship between tertiary level institutions in the Caribbean and the United States are another vital item on the agenda. The universities and colleges in the Caribbean and the U.S. can benefit from closer collaboration. The City University of New York, the University of the West Indies, the University of Guyana and the University of Suriname come quickly to mind as example of schools that can and must fashion stronger ties.

York College in Queens and Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn are making a substantial contribution to the educational development of the Caribbean immigrant community. Their leadership, Dr. Marcia Keiz at York and Dr. Edison Jackson at Medgar Evers, are well attuned to the needs of the communities they serve, including Caribbean students. It would be wise to open up new lines of cooperation and communication with the universities in the Caribbean so that there would be an exchange of faculty and students and the launching of innovative programs that can help all partners, not just the Caribbean.

[From the CaribNews, June 24, 2008]
CARIBBEAN HERITAGE: BUILDING ON ITS
FOUNDATIONS IN A FOREIGN LAND

As one of the Caribbean's literary giants, George Lamming is well-placed to articulate his awareness of the role of the artist and the creative imagination of people from the West Indies.

"The central and seminal value of the creative imagination is that it functions as a civilizing and a humanizing force in a process of struggle," was the way he put it quite eloquently and succinctly.

As he explained it, artistic expression, whether a work of art, a play in the theater, a piece of pulsating music, a poem or a novel, not to mention dance "offers an expe-

rience through which feeling is educated. Through which feeling is deepened. Through which feeling can increase capacity to accommodate a great variety of knowledge."

Many of these manifestations of "feeling" are being thrust onto center-stage in New York City and indeed across the United States in June as the celebrations marking Caribbean Heritage Month allow immigrants from the English, French, Spanish and Dutch-speaking nations, coastal states and territories that comprise the archipelago to present their cultural background and its underpinnings in a fashion that warms the cockles of one's heart, especially those of the anthropologists and the sociologists in our midst.

An area of conquest, colonial domination, imperialism and in the past 40-plus years, a region which manifestly asserts self-determination, independence and nationalism, the Caribbean has come to be recognized as an important sub-region of the world's developing countries that belong to a host of international institutions, ranging from the United Nations, UNESCO, and Organization of American States to UNICEF, the Group of 77 developing countries, now led by Antigua & Barbuda to the International Cricket Council, and the global Olympic movement, to name a few.

Its heritage provides a set of building blocks that aided the transformation of a collection of colonial possessions into a vibrant civilization with an interesting past and a bright future. It's a heritage whose components are not only cultural expressions, in the sense of the artistic but are firmly grounded in religion, governance, respect for law and order and a firm belief that the governed must select its governors and governments. Just as important, the society must extend a helping hand to the less fortunate by creating opportunities for those at the bottom of the economic and social ladder.

This rich heritage as reflected in literature, music, dance, diverse languages and a range of religious experience, not to mention traditions that have given birth to vital regional state and local institutions that help to fashion our behavior and the orderly way of everyday life, can't be ignored or downplayed.

Wherever Caribbean immigrants go, whether in Britain, North America, Europe, Africa, Latin America, Asia or the Middle East, their music, literature, indeed, their entire way of life is transplanted into the soil they describe as home-away-from home.

It was that pride and belief in themselves and what Norman Manley, a builder of modern day Jamaica whose influence extended up-and-down-and-around the Caribbean, called "their own destiny."

That confidence in their inner strength has helped people from the Caribbean to win their independence from an imperialistic stranglehold, fight alongside their long-standing African-American allies in the battle for respect for people's human rights; and succeed in opening up new vistas for the generations that come after them.

Such qualities plus the friendship, support and respect of members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate led the recent decision of the Congress to designate June as Caribbean Heritage Month. And when at first President George Bush hesitated to sign the legislation into law, the machinery of persuasion switched into high gear and he eventually felt it necessary to affix his signature to it and declare it an important step forward for the United States and the peoples of the Caribbean.

As West Indians think of their heritage, inevitably their thoughts go back to those early trail blazers who fought alongside the

revolutionaries to throw off the colonial chains in the 18th century. Crispus Attucks, the first to die in the American war of independence against England was said to be from the Caribbean. Their thoughts also dart to Prince Hall, the Caribbean immigrant who devised a plan for the education of Blacks in Massachusetts and who fought to end slavery in the United States, the Caribbean and indeed the rest of the world.

Frederick Douglass, the 19th century golden trombone of the abolition movement that helped to erase the bloody stain of immorality spawned by slavery in the Americas in general and the United States in particular, once paid tribute to the role of West Indians in that epic struggle.

Zeroing in on Emancipation Day in the West Indies in the first half of the 19th century, he described it as "the first bright star in a stormy sky—the first smile after a long providential frown—the first ray of hope—the first tangible fact demonstrating the possibility of a peaceful transition from slavery to freedom, of the Negro race."

Few, if any one, could say it better.

Whoever else, he went on, may either seek to forget or slight the claim of that historic day, "it can never be said of us other than memorable and glorious."

Almost a 100 years later Marcus Garvey and others took up the torch to illuminate the path to political and economic self-determination and much later still, Malcolm X, Shirley Chisholm and a host of others served as standard bearers for those principles of equality for Blacks with the rest of humanity.

The vibrant Caribbean communities across the land have every reason to be proud of their heritage and shouldn't forget those who helped them along the way to turn the dream of a Caribbean Heritage Month into reality.

Their Black brothers and sisters on Capitol Hill and their supporters of every color and ethnic background in and out of the House of Representatives and the Senate must be hailed and recognized for what they have done in bringing about the official recognition and the celebrations that showcase that heritage.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN BARROW

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. BARROW. Madam Speaker, due to Georgia's primary elections, I was absent from the House of Monday, July 14, and Tuesday, July 15, and missed several rollcall votes. Had I been present I would have voted in the following manner: H. Res. 1067—"Yes"; H. Res. 1080—"Yes"; H. Con. Res. 297—"Yes"; H. Res. 1259—"Yes"; H. Res. 1323—"Yes"; Passage, Objections of the President Notwithstanding, of H.R. 6331—"Yes"; Motion To Refer Kucinich Privileged Resolution—Yes; H.R. 5803—"Yes"; and H. Res. 1090—"Yes."

THE CARIBBEAN SOLUTION FOR AIRLINE CHALLENGES

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts being made by the

Caribbean Tourism Organization, CTO, and the Caribbean Hotel Association, CHA, to increase Caribbean revenue through the tourism sector.

Increasing airline cutbacks have posed a great challenge to many nations; however the Caribbean has seen an opportunity through this challenge. Through the CTO and CHA, Caribbean nations have decided to pool their resources. Many Caribbean destinations are reached with a connection in Puerto Rico, hence an increase in flights to Puerto Rico would mean increased access to the Caribbean.

I would like to recognize all who are involved in this transition for heightened cooperation and coordination within the Caribbean community. These efforts not only contribute to the unification of the Caribbean, but will build up the economies of the region as a whole.

[From the CaribNews, July 8, 2008]

AIRLINE CHALLENGES LEAD TO WHAT COULD BECOME UNPRECEDENTED COOPERATION AMONG CARIBBEAN GOVERNMENTS

The current economic difficulties facing the airline industry worldwide have provided numerous challenges to the destinations they serve, but have led to at least one positive in the Caribbean region: what could become an unprecedented level of cooperation and coordination among Caribbean governments. The airline challenges have caused many to recognize that they can deliver far more benefits to their citizens by cooperating with other governments than by acting alone.

This coordination level accelerated recently when the Chairman of the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) and the President of the Caribbean Hotel Association (CHA) had the foresight to call an emergency meeting in Antigua for Ministers and Commissioners responsible for Tourism, Ministers and Commissioners responsible for Aviation, and members of the tourism private sector to find ways to minimize the impact on their economies brought on by rapid increases in airline fuel prices. It soon became clear to every participant at that meeting that by cooperating on the establishment of hubs, on the promotion of the region, on providing revenue guarantees to airlines and on coordinating the establishment of more efficient intra-regional carriers, all Caribbean countries would suffer less than if each country attempted to address the crisis on its own.

The case of Caribbean hubs, and in particular the case of the Puerto Rico hub, was most instructive. The Government of Puerto Rico has come to recognize that by increasing the number of flights and seats connecting through Puerto Rico, they increase the number of flights, seats and flexibility of passengers traveling to Puerto Rico. This point was made most forcefully in a recent meeting in San Juan and many of the governments to the south of San Juan are relying heavily on decisions being made in Puerto Rico for their continued survival.

All governments also understand that with the current structure of the airline industry, it is indispensably necessary to ensure that the flights coming into Puerto Rico can connect easily to the onward carriers such that travelers traveling beyond the hub can connect online or through their travel agent seamlessly. Without those connections many of the southern destinations are invisible in electronic booking systems. It is this interdependence that is forcing discussions between governments at an unprecedented level and at an unprecedented rate.

The same level of cooperation is beginning in the areas of marketing and in providing airline guarantees. In the past few years, an increasing proportion of the funds voted to departments of tourism across the world are being forced into escrow to cover airline guarantees. That leaves far less available for the promotion. This situation has compelled Caribbean governments to aggregate their promotional budgets for greater promotional efficiency and to devise financial arrangements that reduce the cost of these arrangements which also serve to minimize the risk.

"There is a silver lining on every cloud," according to Allen Chastanet, Chairman of the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO). "We believe that this high level of cooperation is being driven by the Governments, the private sector and the people of each territory recognizing that we in the Caribbean are more interdependent than independent," he emphasized. "Governments now realize that if they do not cooperate to maximize benefits or minimize risk to their countries, they will be called to account by their people asking why they refused to cooperate."

Peter Odle, the President of the Caribbean Hotel Association (CHA) also commented on this suddenly elevated level of cooperation. Odle noted that, "Even though the cooperation between CTO and CHA has grown over the past several years, I see increased cooperation on this issue even at the destination level where members of the private sector are ensuring that their governments are engaged in these cooperative ventures. I promise you, the private sector gets it. We will achieve much more in addressing this crisis through intra-regional cooperation than we can ever achieve by going alone. I will tell you that those governments that do not cooperate will be seen as pariahs by both their own people as well as by other governments in the region."

At the meeting in Antigua, four task forces were established, headed by Ministers to examine the four critical issues. These committees will report to the CTO and CHA Board meetings which will be held prior to the inaugural Annual Caribbean Tourism Summit (ACTS) in Washington, D.C. The results of these committees will also be presented to the Caricom Heads at their meeting in Antigua on July 2nd.

Governments have also come to recognize that they need to cooperate in speaking together with one voice to the government of the United States on a number of critical issues and they propose to take advantage of their presence in Washington to begin those discussions. Thus it appears that this unprecedented spirit of cooperation will continue even beyond the current situation.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING TIMOTHY L. MOORE FOR HIS 24 YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE SECURITY FORCES

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Timothy L. Moore spent 24 years in dedicated service to the United States Air Force Security Forces; and

Whereas, Mr. Moore has received high honors such as the Air Force Security Forces Outstanding Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year in 2005 and the Inspector General Outstanding Performer Award in 2003; and

Whereas, Timothy L. Moore is the recipient of the Meritorious Service award; and

Whereas, Timothy L. Moore is the recipient of the NATO Medal; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend and thank Timothy L. Moore for his contributions to his community and country.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTEGRATION OF THE ARMED SERVICES

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 297 Recognizing the 60th Anniversary of the integration of the Armed Services. The bill recognizes the anniversary of President Truman's executive order declaring a policy of equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin.

The legacy of racism in America is one that runs so deep that even those that were willing to die for this country did not have basic rights while living in it. The process of getting army integration to be reflected in the law took over 15 years, but just like racial inequality throughout the U.S., it took much longer *de facto*.

I served in the all-black 503rd Field Artillery Battalion in the 2nd Infantry Division during the Korean War from 1948 until 1952. Today I am proud to see that it is a much different reality for our servicemen of color. Today we fight side by side with all races with one mission and respect for the value of each individual life. But we take this time to honor the 60th anniversary because we must continue to honor those that fought for this country while suffering under the extra burden of inequality, as well as those that fought for justice in the army and outside of it.

THE DAILY 45: FROM COAST TO COAST

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, the Department of Justice tells us that every day, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States. Forty-five violent stories of tragedy every day are 45 too many.

From coast to coast, the stories affect us all. On Saturday night, in Seattle, Washington, a 17-year-old boy was fatally shot during an argument involving more than 20 young men at a fast-food restaurant.

On Sunday night, in Washington, DC, Frank L. Parker, a 47-year-old man, was found fatally shot in the 300 block of Parkland Place, SE.

On Monday afternoon, in Chicago, Mario Lopez, a 19-year-old man, was fatally shot in a West Side park. These are only three stories of 135 stories that could be told just between Saturday, July 12 and Monday, July 14.

Americans of conscience must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will we say "enough is enough, stop the killing!"

TRIBUTE TO MARJORIE MATTHEWS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of Marjorie Matthews.

Marjorie Matthews prodigiously served the Kings County Hospital Center Community Advisory Board for twenty years, as vice chair from 1990 to 1994 and as chair from 1994 until 2001, where she championed the cause of better service to the Brooklyn community.

Marjorie Matthews labored as a committed and strong advocate for the redevelopment of the Kings County Hospital Center and worked diligently to rebuild the facilities for the benefit of all. Throughout her remarkable career in the healthcare field, she became a formidable leader whose work spanned the length and breadth of Brooklyn, as demonstrated through her devotion to the children of Brooklyn, herculean service on the Community School Board District 16 and pioneering work with the Head Start Program at P.S. 262.

The model of citizenship set forth by Marjorie Matthews is a guide to all wishing to make their communities better, the lives of our children brighter and our city stronger, which she established through inspiration and a lasting legacy for future generations.

Madam Speaker, I cannot in this short time do justice to the life and achievements of Marjorie Matthews. As a lifelong change agent, her dedication was boundless and her courage unparalleled.

On behalf of New York's Tenth Congressional District, I salute and commend Marjorie Matthews for her distinguished record of service to the residents of New York's Tenth Congressional District and beseech all those she left behind to continue her outstanding work. Sadly, she has left us but not before she bestowed her indelible mark on our community, on our lives, and in our hearts.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Marjorie Matthews and the wonderful example that she represented.

THE DEBBIE SMITH REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5057, "The Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act," legislation that I introduced to ensure that the nationwide backlog of DNA evidence is processed. I was pleased to have been joined in introducing the legislation by the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee, Chairman

CONYERS and Ranking Member SMITH, and I want to thank them for their support and commitment to this issue. I also want to commend Chairman SCOTT and Ranking Member GOHMERT for their leadership in getting H.R. 5057 to the Floor today.

I have been working on this issue since 2001 when I, along with former Representative Steve Horn, held a hearing in the Government Reform Committee where we heard from the courageous rape survivor, Debbie Smith. Debbie recounted her horrifying story . . . how an intruder broke into her home and raped her in the nearby woods. Six years later her assailant was charged with her rape because DNA processing techniques had produced a "cold hit."

Inspired by Debbie's story, I resolved to do something to combat the epidemic of violence against women in the United States, where a sexual assault occurs every two minutes.

I knew that DNA processing techniques could serve as conclusive proof in countless other rape cases. But I was outraged that a backlog of hundreds of thousands of rape kits, with DNA evidence already collected, were gathering dust in police stations and crime labs all over the country . . . all because of inadequate government funding.

It was for Debbie, and the thousands of rape survivors like her, that I authored "The Debbie Smith Act" to provide federal funding to process the unconscionable backlog of DNA evidence.

I first introduced this legislation in 2001. In 2004, it was signed into law as part of the "Justice For All Act," comprehensive DNA legislation that has helped bring justice to rape survivors and their families across the country.

The "Justice For All Act" accomplished several critical objectives including authorizing the necessary funding, \$151,000,000 in each fiscal year from FY2005 through FY2009, to start processing the backlog of DNA evidence through the creation of the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program. Since 2004, millions of dollars in funding have been appropriated under the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program.

Because this groundbreaking program's authorization expires at the end of FY2009, H.R. 5057 extends the program through FY2014. Estimates place the number of unprocessed rape kits nationwide in the tens and possibly hundreds of thousands. Each kit represents an innocent life and a rapist who may commit multiple rapes before he is caught.

DNA is remarkable evidence. It doesn't forget, it can't be confused, it can't be intimidated and it doesn't lie. While an eyewitness can easily get mixed up about height, weight, hair color—DNA never changes its story.

Debbie's bravery and dedication to working with me to pass "The Debbie Smith Act," which was no small feat, has already made a tremendous impact on our justice system. I also want to acknowledge RAINN for its steadfast support of "The Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act" and for its efforts on behalf of sexual assault victims and survivors.

Tragically, only six percent of rapists will spend any time in jail. Congress must continue to support programs, like the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program, that help to put rapists in prison and reduce violence against women.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. Throughout the years Alpha Kappa Alpha has instilled in its members the qualities of sisterhood and service to the community. It should be commended on reaching this tremendous milestone.

Alpha Kappa Alpha is the oldest Greek-letter organization established by African American college-trained women in 1908. Since its inception, Alpha Kappa Alpha has always been an advocate for the less fortunate and an agent for change in the community. One of the top priorities of Alpha Kappa Alpha has been to remain true to its core mission of sisterhood and service to the community. Alpha Kappa Alpha's Extraordinary Service Program has worked to improve the living standards within the black community through economic education, creating exposure and opportunities for the women entrepreneur, assisting black families, and improving the mental and physical health of local communities.

This week over 25,000 members of Alpha Kappa Alpha, including Patricia Jones, a constituent from the 32nd Congressional District of California, came to Washington, DC to attend the Centennial Convention. They are joined in their work and the legacy of their work by Honorary Members of the Sorority including Maya Angelou, former astronaut Mae Jemison and the late Rosa Parks, Coretta Scott King, Marian Anderson and Eleanor Roosevelt.

Madam Speaker, I hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Alpha Kappa Alpha for 100 years of service to the community. As a Latina Member of Congress, I look forward to working to promote economic and educational advancement in all communities of color.

A TRIBUTE TO AMERICA'S RAILROADS

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, we all know that the U.S. needs a long term strategic energy policy if we are ever to break our addiction to foreign oil and become energy independent. Part of that long term solution is to focus on a policy that allows us to begin using less oil today.

The United States transportation system is the largest in the world and is almost entirely responsible for our Nation's dependence on using oil as the major source of energy. For instance, while the United States has only 4.5 percent of the world's population, it uses 25 percent of the world's oil. About 60 percent of this oil is imported. The transportation sector consumes seven of every ten barrels of oil consumed in the United States.

In addition, about 28 percent of greenhouse gas emissions, GHGs, in the U.S. are attrib-

uted to the transportation sector, making it the second largest contributor to GHG emissions, trailing only electricity generation. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, this figure is expected to rise to 36 percent by 2020.

In a carbon-constrained world, it makes sense for government to invest in transportation infrastructure that will promote the use of technologies that improve fuel efficiency, while also reducing carbon emissions and traffic congestion. Railroads are the most fuel efficient mode of surface transportation. In 2007, freight railroads moved one ton of freight an average of 436 miles per gallon of fuel—roughly the distance between Boston and Baltimore.

In its January 2008 final report to Congress, the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission stated that "intercity passenger rail is . . . more energy efficient than many other modes of passenger transportation." The report notes that the average intercity passenger rail train produces 60 percent lower carbon dioxide emissions per passenger-mile than the average automobile, and half the carbon dioxide emissions per passenger-mile of an airplane.

Using railroads more means consuming less fuel, and that's more important today more than ever. However, the railroads may not currently have the capacity to handle socially optimal amounts of freight and passenger traffic. Freight railroads are reinvesting record amounts of their own funds into their systems, but that will not be enough to take full advantage of railroads' potential to meet our transportation needs.

One step we must take is to provide relief to states, local communities, and captive rail customers who continue to suffer from unreasonably high railroad rates and poor service. This relief cannot be accomplished through capital improvements alone. Reforms to reduce impediments to competition must also be enacted.

Further, railroads have traditionally invested in their own networks and there is increased interest in public-private relationships to help address the projected underinvestment in our Nation's rail network. However, the government as a public partner has a duty to ensure that the public interest is best served under any agreements it enters into. We need to be careful when creating these partnerships as private businesses' objectives and motivations may not necessarily be aligned with the public interest. When public-private partnerships are used to finance, design and build roads, bridges, rail projects, and transit facilities, we must safeguard the public interests.

H.R. 2116, an excellent piece of legislation introduced by my friend from Florida, KENDRICK MEEK, will provide a 25 percent tax credit for railroads to invest in capital expansion. This will help augment their financial capacity for transportation investments. As we review this legislation, we should also consider including a provision that ensures prevailing wages for the workers responsible for the construction of this expansion. Amtrak ridership may reach 28 million this year—the highest it has ever been and up from 25.8 million passengers last year. In fact, Amtrak ridership and revenues are up and experiencing significant growth in all categories: short distance, long distance, and Northeast Corridor services. Last month, Amtrak had the highest rev-

enue and ridership of any month in its history. Fiscal year 2008 year-to-date ridership is up 11 percent and revenues are up 14 percent over the previous year.

We also need to consider extending the "Section 45G" tax credit for investments in short line track rehabilitation that expired in 2007. The Section 45G tax credit has helped hundreds of short line railroads increase the volume and rate of track rehabilitation and improvement programs. This allows them to offer more efficient, cost-effective, and environmentally friendly rail service to communities throughout the country.

The key to reducing fuel consumption in transportation and our addiction to oil and dependence on foreign oil is by encouraging the use of the most fuel efficient modes of transportation—railroads. America's freight and passenger railroads offer a simple, cost effective and meaningful way to do this, thereby helping to ensure a sustainable future for our planet.

RETIREMENT OF CHIEF LANSON W. RUSSELL

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chief Lanson W. Russell on the occasion of his retirement from the DeKalb Fire Department. I join with the city of DeKalb in thanking him for 44 years of dedicated community service.

Chief Russell began his distinguished career in 1964 as a volunteer with the Peotone Fire Protection District. In 1975, he established Will County's first paramedic unit, and was promoted to chief in 1984.

From 1988 to 1992, he served as fire chief in Villa Park, Illinois, then moved on to Downers Grove for the next 9 years. During his tenure there, Chief Russell worked with neighboring communities to develop joint hazardous materials, technical rescue, and cause and origin teams. Under his guidance, the Downers Grove Fire Department was among the first 44 agencies in the country to receive Accredited Agency Status from the Commission on Fire Accreditation International.

Chief Russell arrived in DeKalb in 2002, and immediately set out to strengthen the department's relationships with Northern Illinois University and neighboring departments. He led the negotiations that resulted in a 4-year collective bargaining agreement, and worked to foster an effective labor-management relationship.

Chief Russell received an associate's degree in Applied Science from Joliet Junior College, and a bachelor of science in Fire Service Management from Southern Illinois University. He continued his education at the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program and the University of Virginia's Senior Executive Institute.

Chief Russell's tireless service to his community over 44 years has been exemplary. I wish him a happy retirement, and extend my deepest gratitude.

THE IRAQI REFUGEE AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, RESETTLEMENT, AND SECURITY ACT OF 2008

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe and Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly, I rise today in strong support of The Iraqi Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement, and Security Act of 2008 (H.R. 6496), a bill which I reintroduced yesterday with a group of 11 bipartisan original co-sponsors.

The bill I am introducing today addresses the impending humanitarian crisis and potential security break-down as a result of the mass influx of Iraqi refugees into neighboring countries, and the growing internally displaced population in Iraq. The bill increases accountable assistance to these populations and their host countries, as well as seeking to facilitate the resettlement of Iraqis at risk.

The plight of Iraqi refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) is worsening by the day. It is heartbreaking to hear the stories of families who fled for their safety, are now unable to work and have subsequently depleted their savings in order to survive.

Madam Speaker, I would like to announce the support that I have received for this very important legislation from prominent non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and religious groups. To date, the following organizations have endorsed this legislation: The Campaign for Innocent Victims of Conflict (CIVIC), Church World Service, Congregation of Divine Providence of San Antonio, Education for Peace in Iraq (EPIC), International Rescue Committee, the Leadership Conference on Women Religious, the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, Mercy Center, Mercy Corps, NETWORK, Open Society Policy Center, Pax Christi USA: National Catholic Peace Movement, the Presbyterian Church (USA), Refugees International, Sisters of Charity of New York, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Sisters of St. Joseph NW PA, and Save the Children.

I thank all of these organizations who have endorsed my legislation and who every single day work tirelessly to make this world a better place. Without their commitment to helping the people devastated by this crisis, the situation in the region would be even worse.

Finally, I would like to thank Congressman DINGELL for his continued leadership in the House of Representatives on this issue and for his help in drafting this legislation as well as the other original co-sponsors supporting this bill. As I have said on many occasions, this must not be a partisan issue, but rather Congress and the Administration have an obligation to work together before the Iraqi refugee crisis further destabilizes the region.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation, which will provide much needed relief for Iraqi refugees and IDPs. I urge the leadership of the House to support this bill and bring it to the floor for its expeditious consideration.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF UPPER UWCHLAN TOWNSHIP

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a wonderful southeastern Pennsylvania municipality celebrating its 150th anniversary.

Upper Uwchlan Township, Chester County, was created in 1858 on a plain between the North Valley Hills and the Nantmeal Hills. Welsh Quakers first settled the rural area in the late 17th century and dubbed the region Uwchlan, which means "upland" or "land above the valley."

The Township is blessed with natural beauty, including the scenic waterways of Pickering Creek, Black Horse Run and Marsh Creek Lake. The Little Conestoga Road running through the Township is believed to be the oldest road in Pennsylvania between the Delaware and Susquehanna Rivers. Pioneers in America's westward expansion traveled through Upper Uwchlan on the Conestoga Turnpike, which also served as a major business route for getting goods into Philadelphia. The Township is also home to the Eagle Tavern, which has been serving patrons since approximately 1727.

Residents, businesses and local officials will mark the Township's 150th anniversary on Saturday, July 19, 2008 with a daylong celebration in the village of Eagle. In doing so, they will celebrate the Township's rich history and outstanding quality of life for residents and businesses.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating the Township on its historic anniversary.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Special Olympics for 40 years of extraordinary service to individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Beyond giving 2.5 million athletes a chance to compete, it gives their families a way to involve their sons, daughters, brothers and sisters. A chance for them to cheer. A chance to coach. A chance to connect in a special way. A chance to see their family member be accepted and respected in their communities.

Originally an initiative of Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the first Special Olympic Games were held on July 20, 1968 at Soldier Field in Chicago, Illinois. Participation in Special Olympics develops improved physical fitness and motor skills, greater self confidence and a more positive self image. Through competitions like power lifting, cycling, track and field, aquatics, tennis and gymnastics, athletes exhibit endless courage and enthusiasm and enjoy the rewards of friendship.

Last month I had the great privilege of addressing the athletes, fans, and families during

the opening ceremony of the Special Olympics Kansas 2008 Summer Games in Wichita. This year's Summer Games theme was "Be a Fan of Courage." This theme reflects the sentiments of the athlete oath, "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt." These words were uttered by gladiators in ancient Rome, and are equally appropriate for modern-day gladiators overcoming their own adversities.

After 40 years, there are now millions of stories of courage in the Special Olympics, but one athlete who has taken the oath and that embodies this year's theme is LP Esquibel from Dodge City, Kansas. He is more than a fan of courage. He is courageous and because of his courage he was awarded the Most Inspirational Athlete award at the Summer Games this year. Cerebral palsy kept him from walking until he was 5 years old, but it has not kept him from becoming a 13-year veteran of the Special Olympics. It also has not kept a smile from his face. From all accounts, LP is more than a great athlete in his events of basketball, shot put, and the 100-yard walk, he is an encouragement to his fellow teammates and helps them on the court.

It is stories like LP's that has sold me on the power and benefits of the Special Olympics. Since 2007, I have served as the Honorary Chairman for the Kansas Law Enforcement Torch Run. The Torch Run covers hundreds of miles throughout the State and raises thousands of dollars in support of Special Olympics Kansas programs. This year-round fundraiser and awareness initiative was implemented by Wichita Police Chief Richard LaMunyon in 1981. It became an international event three years later in 1984 when Chief LaMunyon presented it to the International Association of Chiefs of Police. The Law Enforcement Torch Run is now the largest grassroots fundraiser and public awareness vehicle for Special Olympics around the world.

It was an honor to help raise money this past summer to help send Kansas athletes to compete in China at the World Olympics. I enjoyed meeting them and hearing of their success.

Special Olympics does remarkable work, both in the State of Kansas and across the globe. I would like to commend the leaders and volunteers of Special Olympics for 40 years of outstanding service and wish them continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COUNCIL-MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT IN FOND DU LAC, WISCONSIN

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, I have always agreed with that famous quotation from former House Speaker Tip O'Neill, who noted "all politics is local." I also subscribe to the adage that "all government is local."

Wisconsin is particularly proud of its strong tradition of local government, formally dating back to the ratification of the Wisconsin State Constitution in 1848. The Wisconsin State Constitution contains at least four references to local government and clearly grants the

Wisconsin State Legislature the authority to enact legislation to create local government and establish the framework within which local governments operate.

Ten Wisconsin cities currently have the council-manager form of government which was first authorized in 1919.

This year, the city of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, celebrates the 50th anniversary of its adoption of the council-manager form of government. The council-manager system has served the city well, and I am pleased to congratulate Fond du Lac on this significant milestone.

Interestingly enough, Fond du Lac was the last city in Wisconsin to have the commissioner form of government, which featured three commissioners and a mayor, all elected, with the commission directly supervising city departments. Fifty years ago there were increasing questions about the effectiveness of this form of government. While local political issues made some sort of change appealing, there was growing popularity across the country at that time for the council-manager form of government, which the city of Fond du Lac ultimately adopted.

Often cited as an advantage of the council-manager model is the balance achieved between professional management of daily operations and policy decisions made by elected officials. While ultimate control of the government lies with elected officials, functional experts provide professional management of daily operations.

Robert McManus was the first city manager appointed by the city council in 1958. Mr. McManus was followed by Henry Buslee, Myron Medin, Daniel R. Thompson, Jack Howley, Stephen T. Nenonen, and Tom Ahrens. Thomas Herre, who was most recently appointed in 2005, currently serves in this key leadership role. Of this group, Myron Medin was Fond du Lac's longest serving city manager, serving from November of 1967 through August of 1983.

On the occasion of this noteworthy anniversary, it is important to commend the members of the Fond du Lac city council over the last

50 years for the care they have taken in appointing those who have served as city manager and in efficiently and effectively supervising the city's affairs. Of historical interest, it is fitting to note that James Megellas, a highly decorated World War II hero and native son of Fond du Lac, was the first city council president to preside under this new form of government.

I hope you will join me in congratulating the City of Fond du Lac and its citizens on the 50th anniversary of their adoption of the council-manager form of government.

IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE WRITERS GUILD OF AMERICA, WEST IN ACTION AGAINST FREMANTLEMEDIA NORTH AMERICA

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, the most successful and profitable television show in this country is "American Idol", produced by FremantleMedia North America. "American Idol" and other FremantleMedia productions entertain many millions worldwide with the promise of providing an opportunity for young talented people to display their abilities and be rewarded for their hard work.

That is why it is such a shame that FremantleMedia refuses to offer the same basic opportunity to its writers and other employees. The California Labor Commissioner has recorded claims from "American Idol" and other FremantleMedia employees totaling more than \$300,000 in unpaid wages and unsafe working conditions. The State Labor Commissioner has conducted serious investigations into FremantleMedia productions and has even been forced to cite the company for failure to pay overtime to their employees.

Madam Speaker, I have watched "American Idol" with my teenage daughter on many oc-

casions. I am well aware of its impact on society and the enormous profits it generates for Fox Television and its producers and advertisers. In 2007, the show allegedly generated over \$200 million in profits for the Fox network, while FremantleMedia's worldwide profits exceeded \$1.8 billion.

Why then, are they unable to pay a fair and equitable wage to its employees who provide the written content or other services that make these shows so successful? In an April 2008 filing with the California Department of Labor Standards, "American Idol" employees reported working 15–20 hour days, 7 days a week and FremantleMedia avoided paying any overtime by declaring that a substantial majority of their employees are "exempt." In addition to failing to abide by California's wage and hour statutes, FremantleMedia refuses to offer most of their employees access to health coverage. For such a popular and profitable show, I find this behavior reprehensible.

American reality show fans should not be confused. The reality is, "reality" shows are written. The plot lines, the banter between personalities, the contests that are at the heart of the shows; all are created by talented members of the creative community. These individuals should be paid fairly and like other American workers, allowed to join a guild to collectively bargain on their behalf.

Madam Speaker, no one wants to shut "American Idol" down. All I am asking, all the American people are demanding, is that those talented Americans who create content for these vastly profitable enterprises be paid fairly with industry-standard benefits and in accordance with federal and state laws. We are asking that one of the country's most popular and profitable shows treats its employees with the respect and dignity they deserve. You can bet that the on-air personalities who read the words are paid dearly. It's time that Fremantle allow those who put the words in their mouths simply be allowed to be represented at the bargaining table.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, July 17, 2008 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 22

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Michael Bruce Donley, of Virginia, to be Secretary, General Norton A. Schwartz, for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Chief of Staff, and General Duncan J. McNabb, for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Commander, United States Transportation Command, all of the United States Air Force.

SR-325

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine ways for America to gain energy security.

SD-106

10 a.m.

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine global warming, focusing on an update on the science and its implications.

SD-406

Finance

To hold hearings to examine Indian governments and the tax code, focusing on maximizing tax incentives for economic development.

SD-215

2 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine improving performance relating to a review of pay-for-performance systems in the Federal Government.

SD-342

2:30 p.m.

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

JULY 23

9:30 a.m.

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the midwest floods, focusing on ways to determine what happened and how to improve managing risk and responses in the future.

SD-406

Veterans' Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Veterans Affairs, focusing on responding to the needs of returning United States Guard and Reserve members.

SR-418

9:45 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the status of existing federal programs targeted at reducing gasoline demand, focusing on additional proposals for near-term gasoline demand reductions.

SD-366

10 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of James Christopher Swan, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Djibouti, Alan W. Eastham, Jr., of Arkansas, to be Ambassador to the Republic of the Congo, and W. Stuart Symington, of Missouri, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Rwanda, all of the Department of State.

SD-419

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine information sharing, focusing on connecting the dots at the Federal, State, and Local levels.

SD-342

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine courting big business, focusing on the Supreme Court's recent decisions on corporate misconduct and laws regulating corporations.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Aging

To hold hearings to examine person-centered care, focusing on reforming services and bringing elderly citizens back to the heart of society.

SD-562

2 p.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of J. Patrick Rowan, of Maryland, and Jeffrey Leigh Sedgwick, of Massachusetts, both to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, and William B. Carr, Jr., of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the United States Sentencing Commission.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Children and Families Subcommittee

To continue hearings to examine childhood obesity, focusing on declining health of America's next generation (Part II).

SD-430

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Carol A. Dalton, Anthony C. Epstein, and Heidi M. Pasichow, all of the District of Columbia, all to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

SD-342

JULY 24

10 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of James A. Williams, of Virginia, to be Administrator of General Services Administration.

SD-342

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine crimes associated with polygamy, focusing on the need for a coordinated state and federal response.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

JULY 30

10 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the White House and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), focusing on impeding congressional oversight.

SD-226